

am thoroughly convinced as I have been from in April that the receipts for '83-'84, that the economy is going to...tax receipts have a very good likelihood of being somewhat better than what we are using for estimates. If you look just through April of this year, actual receipts were \$5.9 million above projections, accumulative for since last July, and some of those months we are using actual months, actually it is through since December. Most of the things I read seems to believe that the economy is going to improve and the point is that I think that this adjustment, as minor as it is in terms of a salary adjustment when you look at other governmental units in this state, I think it can be absorbed within the existing rates provided, of course, that a couple of other bills are not enacted that are still pending or if they are passed vetoed. But another reason the Appropriations Committee accepted an amendment to LB 632 which would have established a separate fund in the event the money did materialize, the economy did improve by next January. I have refrained from offering that amendment to the bill even though it was a committee amendment for a couple of reasons, one, I keep getting suggestions that the bill may be in jeopardy if that amendment is attached to it, not here but the other branch of government, and I certainly would not want to jeopardize the health insurance by attaching that amendment to it as justified as I believe that amendment to be. But since I believe that amendment would have resulted in a salary adjustment in any event that the cost is about the same whether we do it here or do it in January, the difference is that this is only a 2.5% increase as opposed to five that I would have been in support of in January. I think that, and then finally, because we cannot selectively override that vetoes in the other bill, I think this does give us a way to singularly address the salary issue and treat state employees with a little better treatment than would otherwise be possible and I am thoroughly convinced that it is within the capability of the tax rates, if you disregard the \$21 refund issue. I believe that it is thoroughly possible within the rates of 20 and 3½ for operating purposes, and again not counting the ½ sales tax that is being used for the reserve. With that I would support this amendment as one that is reasonably fair for state employees and puts that issue by itself before us in a fashion that we could deal with it without carrying along with it numerous other provisions as our only alternative would be under LB 628 vetoes.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh, and then Senators Wesely and DeCamp.